

In the Claims:

Please enter the following changes as indicated to the claims:

1. (Previously amended) A fence comprising an upper horizontal rail, a lower horizontal rail, boards extending between said rails, at least one of said rails having a separate half parts, each of said parts including a cooperating fastener for securing the parts together about said boards, at least one of said parts having longitudinally spaced ribs, each adjacent pair of ribs defining a space therebetween, and a said board fitted into a said space with said parts secured together about said boards.

2. (Original) The fence of claim 1 wherein both of said parts have said longitudinally spaced ribs, said ribs being opposed when said parts are secured together with each adjacent pair of opposed ribs defining a said space therebetween.

3. (Currently Amended) The fence of claim 1 and a first vertical post extending transversely relative to said rails, said rails engaging said ~~second~~ first post.

4. (Original) The fence of claim 3 and a second vertical post extending transversely relative to said rails, said rails engaging said second post.

5. (Original) The fence of claim 4 wherein each post fits between said parts of each of said rails.

6. (Original) The fence of claim 1 wherein both of said rails have said separate half parts, at least of one of said parts of each rail having said longitudinally spaced ribs.

7. (Previously amended) The fence of claim 4 and a third horizontal rail located above said upper horizontal rail, each of said rails engaging said first and second vertical posts.

8. (Original) The fence of claim 7 wherein said third rail has separate half parts, each of said parts of said third rail including cooperating fasteners for securing the parts together.

9. (Currently Amended) The fence of claim 8 wherein at least one of said parts of said third rail includes longitudinally spaced ribs, each adjacent pair of ribs defining a space therebetween, a said board fitted into a said space defined between said ribs.

10. (Previously added) The fence of claim 4 wherein each post fits between said opposing half parts of each of said rails.

11. (Previously added) The fence of claim 10 wherein said lower rail carries said posts and said boards.

12. (Previously added) A fence comprising an upper horizontal rail, a lower horizontal rail, boards extending between said rails, at least one of said rails having ~~a~~ separate opposing half parts, each of said parts including a complimentary part of a cooperating fastener for securing the parts together about said boards, at least one of said parts having longitudinally spaced ribs, each adjacent pair of ribs defining a space therebetween, and a said board fitted into a said space with said parts secured together about said boards.

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(cont)
13. (Previously added) The fence of claim 12 wherein said complimentary parts of said fastener are slidably engageable in one direction for mechanically preventing disengagement in the opposite direction.

14. (New) The fence of claim 13 wherein said half parts vertically oppose each other, said fastener for securing the parts about opposite sides of said boards.

15. (New) The fence of claim 14 wherein said ribs extend transversely between said parts.

16. (New) The fence of claim 15 wherein said opposing parts and each adjacent pair of said ribs define said space.

17. (New) A fence comprising an upper horizontal rail, a lower horizontal rail, and boards extending between said rails; one of said rails divided into two vertically opposing half parts; each said part including a complimentary portion of a fastener for securing the parts together about opposite sides of said board; one of said parts including a plurality of longitudinally spaced, transverse ribs extending toward the other of the parts; said opposing parts and each adjacent pair of said ribs defining a space therebetween into which a said board is fitted when said parts are secured together about said opposite sides of the board.
